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CHINESE LABOR INTEFEST GROUPS

Chinese Federation of Labor

This group was founded in Shang-ha! on 24 February 1935, opening c new phase in the Chinese labor movement. Its object was to study labor theory, promote labor culture, and plan for labor's benefits. When the war with Japan broke out, the Federation led Shang-hai workers into many defense activities, such as transport, intelligence, rescue, etc. The Federation officials moved westward with the government, and in 1939 received permission to join the International Federa-tion of Trade Unions (IFTU), for help in the Var of Resistance. In December of that year the second convention was held with a good number of member generalunions. Federation membership and activities grew much during the war years. Several hundred laborers were recruited for transport work in India, and the Federation undertook to raise one million yuan for this purpose. In the west Human debacle of 1945, funds were sent to aid the field later corra. Delegates were sent to the Paris weeting of the WFTU in the autumn of that year. By the end of 1945 the Federation embraced 95 units representing 1,175,975 persons.

A large number of welfare projects, such as nurseries, hospices, liaison between Free and Occupied China, financial relief, employment agencies, etc., were valerteken during the war. More than 50 centers were set up for further training in technical skills. The Federation also gave help in the many and widespread adjustments necessitated by the Japanese surrender.

As to cultural activities, a semimonthly magazine The Chinese Worker was put into circulation in 1983. This afterwards became a weekly. In the sociology departments of Yenching, Manking, and other universities in refuge in Chengtu, scholarships for the study of labor problems were established. Since 1942 there have been 19 lecture courses and five seminars in this field.

The Federation is governed by a Board of Control, numbering 31 members with 15 alternates, and a Board of Reference with nine members and four alternates. These two boards elect a staff of five for daily administration. At precent the chairmen is An Fu-t'ing and the general scretary is Shen Ting.

As of the end of 1946, the Federatica had 132 member units, representing 1,354,193 persons, and 26,152 individual members. Besides promoting weifare projects in many places, it has helped settle more than 200 labor-management disputes.

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B. Committee on Sheng-had Workers' Welfare

This joint group was organized in June 1946. After the Japanese surrender, the closing of factories and the Communist fomenting of discontent led intelligent persons in both labor and management circles to feel that some remedy must be found. The place to begin was workers' welfare. For if such projects could be expanded, labor would be more content and Communists would find it hard to stir up economic discoutent and class strife. About this time Lu Ching-shih and others organized a workers' welfare committee to plan for the aforesaid objectives. In this joint group are representatives of the labor movement, the mercantile class, officialdom, and other citizens interested in labor problems.

The original aim of this committee was to promote workers' welfare. But the poriod was so full of labor unrest that its chief energy had to be spent helping the authorities to settle disputes, and advising the labor unions on their problems. Consequently, actual welfare work fell far short of the ideat and was limited to a few projects. Under the government's labor policy, labor conditions in Shang-hal have improved, and industry has somewhat prospered. From now on, the committee can take more positive measures in behalf of the workers, and effect better living conditions and sounder public order.

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